Amendments to the Specification:

Page 11, amend the paragraph beginning on line 2 to read as follows.

Between the inner tube 1 and the mesh sleeve 3, there is provided a low friction member 5 having a coefficient of friction which is smaller to the mesh sleeve 1 than to the inner tube 1. The low friction member 5 is so arranged as to cover the whole inner tube 1, and is fastened together with the mesh sleeve 3 to the inner tube 1 at both ends of the inner tube 1 by the fastening fittings 4a and 4b. When contracted, the low friction member 5 forms a cylindrical body having a circumferential length nearly equal to the outer diameter of the inner tube 1 when it is contracted. As a material of the low friction member 5, there can be used an expansible/contractible cloth used for, for example, stockings. Such a cloth has been constituted to be expansible and contractible by knitting a synthetic fiber of, for example, a combination of a polyurethane core fiber and a nylon fiber, and exhibits a coefficient of friction to the mesh sleeve obtained by knitting the resin filament smaller than a coefficient of friction to the inner tube made of a butyl rubber or a silicone rubber. It is desired that the low friction member 5 is produced as a cylindrical body by knitting fine fibers in a circumferential direction without a seam, just like the fiber that is being used, relying upon the known technology for knitting the stockings.